

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: OED/DFPD/BC AND OV DGILPATRIC

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OED/DFPD/RLPRITCHARD -OIM/224/R. HUMBER/C.J. BARRETT-OFO

STATE: EB/CBA/R. SCISSORS

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R 051916Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS STATE 198634

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, NL

SUBJ: DIRECT REFERRALS OF TRADE INQUIRIES

REF: THE HAGUES 4148, 4207, USDOC 14250, 14267

1. PENDING COMPLETION OF FULL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL EMBASSY'S CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TRADE LETTERS AND INQUIRIES, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION FURTHER COMMENTS THEREON PROJECTED IN EMBTEL 4148, POST REQUESTED TO DIRECT THESE CABLES TO USDOC WASHINGTON ONLY (AS PER PARA 4 (C) EMBTEL 4148) AND TO FOLLOW FAM INSTRUCTIONS IN SECTIONS 915.1.B AND C; 915.2; 915.3 AND 915.4. PRIME ANE COGENT REASONS FOR THIS GUIDANCE SET FORTH BELOW.

2. COMMERCE DISTRICT OFFICES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO TELEX-TELETYPE MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM ABROAD, AND MUST THEREFORE RELAY RESPONSES TO USDOC WASHINGTON FOR RE-TRANSMITTAL. NO SIGNIFICANT TIME-SAVING THUS RESULTS FROM EMBASSY'S NEW SYSTEM, OF WHICH COMMERCE NOT UNAWARE SINCE ITS INAUGURATION IN JULY. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS IN CASE SAN FRANCISCO HANDLING OF EMBTEL 3175 WHICH WAS FIRST SUCH REFERRAL MADE THAT D.O.
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LATTER SENT CABLE REPLY AFTER ROUTINE CLEARANCE WITH OFFICE

OF FIELD OPERATIONS WHICH ASSUMED URGENT ACTION WARRANTED AFTER BEING INFORMED D.O. IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH AV-ALARM.

3. EXCEPT FOR TELEX FACILITIES AT CERTAIN TRADE CENTERS USED FOR EXHIBIT-RELATED OPERATIONAL MESSAGE EXCHANGES WITH USDOC WASHINGTON, COMMERCE DOES NOT ENCOURAGE BUSINESSMEN TO TELEX F.S. POSTS WITH SUCH RECEPTION EQUIPMENT FACILITIES, AND STATE WILL NOT CONFIRM EMBASSY TELEX ADDRESSES TO PUBLIC INQUIRERS EXCEPT IN JUSTIFIED EMERGENCIES. BOTH DEPARTMENTS HAVE LONG-STANDING PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS FOR HANDLING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY COMMUNICATIONS WHICH, WHEN CHANGED, MUST OBVIOUSLY BE BROADLY APPLICABLE TO ALL U.S. MISSIONS AND DMEOSTIC ORGANIZATIONS UNITS.

4. IC HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A THOROUGH STUDY DURING RECENT MONTHS OF ALL ASPECTS OF TRADE LETTER HANDLING BY F.S. POSTS UNDER FAM 915, AND HAS TABLED SEVERAL MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN THOSE INSTRUCTIONS. STATE HAS REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF ANY CHANGES UNTIL THE ENTIRE INSTRUCTION HAS BEEN RE-DRAFTED. UNTIL SUCH INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT IS REACHED, THE OBVIOUS COURSE IS TO ASK ALL OVERSEAS POSTS TO FOLLOW EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS.

5. OUR EVIEW OF THE THAGUE'S TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES IN CY 73 RESPONDING TO TRADE LETTERS OR FILING TRADE INQUIRIES DOES NOT REVEAL ANY SIGNIFICANT CASE RESULTS, OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THESE FINDINGS, WITH WHICH ALL DIBA RECIPIENTS CONCUR, WILL BE FORWARDED SHORTLY IN A DETAILED SUBMISSION.

6. COMMERCE HOPES TO ARRANGE A MEETING TO DISCUSS ABOVE AND RELATED POINTS WITH AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE GOULD AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE BRIEFINGS WHICH HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. RUSH

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